

Easter Island

September 18-26, 2024

Pre-Trip to Argentina Annular Eclipse

September 26 - October 7, 2024



Betchart Expeditions Inc.

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9/20/23

THE BEST OF MAN AND NATURE WORLDWIDE_{SM}



EASTER ISLAND PRE-TRIP to the Argentina Annular Eclipse Expedition

September 18-26, 2024

OVERVIEW

We invite you to join this Easter Island Expedition which is scheduled immediately before the **Argentina Annular Eclipse Expedition, September 26-October 7, 2024.**

This adventure to Easter Island will give you a great introduction to the island's heritage with an excellent local guide.

We will fly west from Santiago 2,350 miles to Easter Island, the eastern corner of the Polynesian Triangle.

About one thousand 10- to 30-ft tall moais are found on Easter Island, carved out of the volcanic rock. Many moais can be seen in different stages of production and others have been uprighted and replaced on platforms facing out to sea. We'll also become acquainted with the Easter Island culture.

Exploring the extraordinary cultural and archaeological wonders of legendary Easter Island is certainly a lifetime experience. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to go there.

For reservations, please **phone Taunya (800) 252-4910** or email: **betcharttaunya@gmail.com**
For costs and other details please see below. We hope you will be able to join us!

DAILY ITINERARY

Days 1/2 (Wed/Thur Sept 18/19) USA to Santiago

Depart the USA for Santiago, arriving on the morning of Day 2. Overnight Santiago.

Day 3 (Fri, Sep 20) Santiago to Easter Island

Transfer to the Santiago airport for our flight to Easter Island. Arrive on Easter Island in the afternoon and transfer to our *Hotel (3 nights)*, an excellent small hotel overlooking the ocean, a 15-minute walk from all in Hanga Roa, the capital and population center.

Our Easter Island guide will give us a short introduction as we begin our exploration of Easter Island. We will depart for the interior of the island, and gain our first impressions of Easter Island culture as we visit restored Ahu Akivi with 7 Moais. Per the oral traditions these statues represent the 7 messengers of Kine Hotu Matua who came to explore this far away island for their king and people. We will then proceed to the Ana Te Pahu Cave, one of the biggest lava tubes of the island. We will continue along the west coast to Ahu Tepeu (not restored) and see remains of a village with “Hare Paenga” remains of house constructions. Afterwards drive to the topknot-quarry Puna Pau. Dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4 (Sat, Sep 21) AhusVaihu - Rano Raraku & Ahu Tangariki

This morning we will drive to the south coast and visit representative examples of unrestored platforms, Ahus Vaihu and Akahanga. Proceed to Rano Raraku, the quarry with almost 900 stone statues, 397 of them still lying or standing at the slopes of the extinct volcano in different stages of completion. Here we will spend time leisurely walking around and trying to comprehend what happened some hundreds of years ago at this spectacular site.

We will enjoy a picnic lunch at Rano Raraku in the famous setting. Then visit Ahu Tongariki nearby (with 15 restored moais), most recently reconstructed after being destroyed by a tidal wave in 1960, and the most impressive restoration on the island. After a day full of new experiences and impressions drive back to your hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 5 (Sun, Sep 22) Orongo & Anakena

Drive to the extinct volcano Rano Kau this morning. Appreciate on the way a view over the whole island and see its distinct volcanic features. We will proceed to a breathtaking outlook at the crater lake of Rano Kau. Afterwards drive to the ceremonial village of Orongo, where the birdman competition took place and here you can see the spectacular petroglyphs related to this tradition. Drive down to Ahu Vinapu (not restored) reminding us of pre-Inca architecture with its precisely cut stone slabs. Then drive to Ana Kai Tangata cave with its wall paintings. In the afternoon, we will explore the east coast and visit the unrestored Ahu Te Pito Kura and the “Navel of the World.” We will visit restored Ahus Nau Nau and Ature Huke and take some time off under palm trees or enjoy a swim in the warm southern Pacific Ocean. Late afternoon return to hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 6 (Mon, Sep 23) Easter Island to Santiago

In the morning we will visit the archeological site of Tahai with three restored Ahus and moais. Here we will finally see a statue with its eyes reinserted. There are also restored remains of boathouses, a boat ramp and other ancient types of construction. Visit the museum close by, and the church with its interesting woodcarvings. Depart on our flight to Santiago, and transfer to our *Santiago hotel (3 nights)*. (B) Note: passengers on the Argentina trip depart the US to arrive the next morning.

Day 7/8 (Tues/Wed, Sep 24/25) Santiago

Explore the major museums and sights of this charming capital city of lively Santiago. Historic buildings in downtown Santiago will catch your eye, as will statues of national heroes of the early independence years, the Plaza de Armas, and Casa de la Moneda. From San Cristobal Hill there is a fine view of the city. The Museum of Pre-Columbian Art has a superb collection of artifacts from ancient Central and South America, it's a jewel among the world's museums and its exhibits vividly demonstrate the rich cultural and artistic diversity of the Pre-Columbian Americas. (B)

Day 9 (Thur, Sep 26) Santiago to Buenos Aires

Depart Santiago on a flight to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Immigration & Customs formalities. Group transfer to Buenos Aires hotel. Evening at leisure. Note: passengers on the Argentina trip only depart the U.S. to arrive next morning.

Please Note: This itinerary is a guideline and is subject to change due to local circumstances and flight schedule changes. Your guide will keep you informed.

COSTS & CONDITIONS

Easter Island Pre-Trip Fee: \$3,595 per person (twin share) + **International Air Fare** \$1,595 appx. per person Miami/Santiago & Buenos Aires/Miami + **Group In-Tour Air Fare** \$1,595 appx. per person Santiago/Easter Island/Santiago/Buenos Aires Air Fares are subject to change until ticketed.

Singles: We encourage singles to register twin share. If you do not have a roommate, there is a \$795 additional cost for single accommodations. (Limited singles are available.)

Easter Island Trip Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share 4 nights in Santiago with breakfast, 3 nights Easter Island; breakfasts, 3 lunches, 3 dinners on Easter Island; group entrance fees; leadership, administration.

Easter Island Fee Does Not Include: International and in-tour air fare (quoted separately); independent in-transfers; some meals; beverages at meals; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water or soda, snacks; passport, personal insurance; tips to local guides and drivers.

Independent Transfers and Pre-Nights: We can arrange independent in-transfers for you (if you are not on the group arrival flights) for \$60 per person or couple. Pre-nights at the Hotel in Santiago are \$195 per room.

What to Expect: This expedition is for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring and learning about the fascinating cultural heritage of Easter Island, 2,350 miles to the west of Chile. Leading the expedition will be an excellent local guide who is an expert on Easter Island.

Questions, Reservations, Deposits, and Payments: To reserve your place on this Easter Island pre-trip, please phone Taunya at Betchart Expeditions Inc. (800) 252-4910 or email: betchartTaunya@gmail.com.

Please mail the reservation form and your deposit check for \$500 per person to:

Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014.

The final payment is due 120 days before departure.

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable until 120 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$200 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation after the 120-day period unless your space can be resold; then a \$200 per person handling fee applies. No refunds are made for unused services or airfare.

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RESERVATIONS

#1731 EI

YES! I/We want to join the **Easter Island Pre-trip, September 18 – 26, 2024** offered by Betchart Expeditions Inc. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please reserve _____ double _____ twin or _____ single accommodations.

Please mail to: **Easter Island Pre 2024 Argentina Eclipse**
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014

Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels and exercises every care possible. Betchart can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident, or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.